

Hello,

I'm a parent of a son on the autism spectrum and have many, many friends who have children with varying degrees of autism disorders, as well as friends with children with other intellectual challenges.

The proposed DDS cuts would dramatically effect the lives of many children and adults with disabilities. I can't imagine how families relying on help through voluntary services will manage their lives, and how quality of life will diminish for young adults who need job training/job coaches, sheltered workshops, and so much more. Parents will need to quit their jobs to stay home with them. Behaviors will likely appear from these people, due to them having nothing productive to do, such as depression and acting out. Everyone in our society deserves to be a productive member of community and deserves to work according to their ability. They deserve supportive housing. Their families need and deserve help in raising them so that they progress as much as they can.

These cuts will affect the lives of our most vulnerable citizens and their families. Schools have spent years and resources helping these individuals work toward independence, but many need help along the way, and realistically will need supports throughout their lives. We parents will not live forever and what will happen to our children?

These cuts are inhumane and will ultimately cost the state more money if these folks end up needing institutional care and mental health care.

Please advocate for these people! I know my representative, Beth Bye, is well aware of the needs of this population and am sure we have her support.

Thank you,
Noreen F. Simmons
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